United Nations S/PV.7425

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7425th meeting
Thursday, 9 April 2015, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mrs. Kawar	(Jordan)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Lucas
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Mr. Zhao Yong
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Lithuania	Ms. Murmokaitė
	Malaysia	Mrs. Adnin
	New Zealand	Mr. McLay
	Nigeria	Mr. Laro
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Spain	Mr. González de Linares Palou
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Ms. Power
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Suárez Moreno

Agenda

The situation in Mali

Letter dated 2 January 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2015/3)

Letter dated 16 March 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2015/187)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali (S/2015/219)

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15-10023 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Mali

Letter dated 2 January 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2015/3)

Letter dated 16 March 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2015/187)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali (S/2015/219)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Mali to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome His Excellency Mr. Abdoulaye Diop, Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Integration and International Cooperation of the Republic of Mali.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Hervé Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2015/219, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali, as well as to documents S/2015/3 and S/2015/187, containing letters dated 2 January 2015 and 16 March 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council.

I now give the floor to Mr. Ladsous.

Mr. Ladsous (*spoke in French*): I thank you, Madam President, for giving me the opportunity to brief the Council on Mali at a time that I think it is fair to call a key moment in the political process. I would like to complement the Secretary-General's latest report (S/2015/219) by focusing on three points: the dialogue process, the security situation and the strengthening of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).

Concerning the political process, as the Secretary-General explains in his report, in February the Malian parties held a fifth session of the inter-Malian dialogue in Algiers. On 1 March, two of the three parties initialled the draft peace agreement submitted to them by the mediators in indication of their agreement with it. The third party, known as the Coordination, asked for more time to consult its base, while negotiations continued between it and the mediators. This past week, the head of the mediation, the representative of Algeria, and Special Representative of the Secretary-General Hamdi met with the Coordination leadership in Algiers. At that time, the Coordination indicated that it would be initialing the agreement next week. However, that is just an statement of intent; it has not actually happened yet.

What we can gather from all this is that the crisis in Mali can be resolved only through an inclusive and viable political agreement that can be effectively implemented. The draft currently on the table provides a good basis for the resolution of many issues that have been at the heart of the Malian conflict for so many years. An agreement is only one step in a long process, and it is important that all parties fully commit to following through with the process to its conclusion. I therefore think that, more than ever, it is important to urge the Malian parties to continue their dialogue to address outstanding issues and to commit to the process that will follow the signing of the agreement, which we all hope to see. In that context, the international community has an important role to play in facilitating and supporting the dialogue. However, allow me to say that, ultimately, the people of Mali are responsible for ensuring peace.

I therefore believe this is a historic opportunity to reach a political settlement. It is historic because, with regard to previous efforts to resolve the Malian crisis, this is the first time that the international community has mobilized to provide its support. There is really an alignment of the stars, if I may use the expression, which is a first in the history of Mali, and there is a desire to support Mali. I therefore think that this message must continue to be conveyed. All Malians must take ownership of this process, and that is how we will be able to move forward.

Of course, one of the crucial aspects now will be the establishment of a precise and detailed framework and timeline for the implementation of the peace process. Clear and robust implementation mechanisms

are also necessary because there is a lack of confidence among the Malian parties. I think peace is attainable, and intensive efforts to that end should be undertaken in the upcoming weeks.

Unfortunately, the security situation is fragile — not only in northern Mali, but also in other parts of the country. This insecurity has a direct impact on civilians' safety and hinders the re-establishment of State authority, humanitarian access and stabilization programmes.

While preparations for the fifth round of talks in Algiers were under way in January, there were violations of the ceasefire on the ground by the parties and serious security threats for civilians. On 19 February, parties recommitted to upholding the ceasefire, which has generally been respected. However, I must take this opportunity to reaffirm that no party should seek to gain ground by military means. It is essential to comply with the ceasefire. Peace in Mali will be achieved only through negotiations, not through military means.

The lack of constructive participation by some of the Malian parties in the ceasefire management bodies is an area of concern. In that regard, I am thinking in particular of the Mixed Technical Commission on Security and the joint observation and verification teams. I think it is very important that all parties uphold their ceasefire commitments and participate in those bodies, as that is how we will eventually be able to cover additional ground and gain a better understanding and a deterrent effect on those who violate the ceasefire.

As I stated, there were serious incidents, not just in the north of Mali but also in Bamako on 7 March and in other areas south of the Niger River. Those incidents demonstrate how extremist and criminal elements exploit vacuums of law and order in order to perpetrate their crimes. It is therefore critical that all Malian parties clearly distance themselves from violent and illegal activities. That is the reason that last year we established a cell in MINUSMA tasked with dealing with issues of transnational crime and helping the Malian Government develop its action in that regard. I think that the Security Council's attention and support to issues related to illicit trafficking and criminality are extremely important. It is also important for the countries of the region and all Mali's partners to continue to support MINUSMA and its personnel to enable the Mission to carry out its tasks, including with regard to MINUSMA's supply routes through the territories of neighbouring countries, which are quite helpful to the Mission.

With regard to the situation on the ground, there continue to be attacks. Since our last meeting, three peacekeepers lost their lives. I would like to pay tribute to them and to the police- and troop-contributing countries that sent them to Mali.

With regard to MINUSMA, efforts are ongoing to expand the Mission's presence and operations in the northern regions, pursuant to resolution 2164 (2014). As detailed in the report, the deployment of the Mission's military component has reached 80 per cent, and we are hoping to conclude its deployment with the arrival in next two months of the two battalions that we have been awaiting for so long, but who are now almost fully equipped. I think that the figure of 80 per cent will rise significantly in the two months to come. At the same time, the construction of infrastructure continues, but not under the best conditions because of the ongoing security challenges. This is therefore a work in progress.

We have also continued and strengthened our outreach efforts with local populations, who have often long been polarized as the legacy of intercommunal tensions and political and criminal violence. In this regard, since February we have had a tool that, I believe, will prove to be very useful, and that is MINUSMA radio, whose broadcasts will be expanded in local languages.

We will continue to require financial and technical support from Member States. As discussions on the MINUSMA budget begin in the relevant committees, I believe that a strong signal from the Security Council would have an influence on those upcoming discussions.

In conclusion, I would like to express how much we appreciate the efforts of our partners in the mediation team: Algeria, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States and other countries. Their efforts have been commendable.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Hamdi, and all of our colleagues in MINUSMA are carrying out their duties in very difficult conditions. I would like to briefly express my great appreciation of the work of Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General David Gressly, who is concluding his service as Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator and moving on elsewhere, having accomplished a great deal in his two and a half years in Mali.

Last but not least, I would like to congratulate Force Commander Major General Lollesgaard, who took up his functions 10 days ago, taking over from General Bikimo of Chad, who had served as Acting Force Commander for several months with great skill.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank Mr. Ladsous for his briefing.

I now give the floor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Integration and International Cooperation of Mali.

Mr. Diop (Mali) (*spoke in French*): Let me convey to you, Madam, the warmest congratulations of the delegation of Mali upon the accession of your country, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, to the presidency of the Security Council for the month of April. At the same time, let me say how proud we are to see a woman from the Middle East presiding over the Security Council. I would also like to pay a just tribute to France for the skill with which it guided the work of the Council last month.

I would also like to express the deepest gratitude of His Excellency Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President of the Republic of Mali, and the Government and the people of Mali to our shared Organization, the United Nations, and its Member States for the ongoing, multifaceted support they have provided to the peace process in Mali since January 2012, when the most serious crisis in the history of our country began.

I take this opportunity to express and reaffirm the confidence of the Government of Mali in international mediation, being led by Algeria and comprising the United Nations, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the European Union, the Organization for Islamic Cooperation, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, the Niger, Nigeria and Chad. I welcome France's role and contribution in Mali and all of the sacrifices that have been made.

I take this opportunity to commend the personal commitment of the Secretary-General to seeking peace and reconciliation in Mali. I also take this opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. David Gressley for his great service in our country and to wish him the greatest of success in his future endeavours, in Africa or elsewhere.

I extend the heartfelt thanks of the Malian people to all friendly nations and international partner organizations that have shown their solidarity with Mali by sending their children or their experts to defend the values binding us together as humankind. I pay solemn tribute to the memory of those who lost their lives in the line of duty in Mali, defending human dignity, freedom and democracy.

The Government of Mali notes the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on developments in the situation in Mali (S/2015/219), which is before the Council for consideration today. However, we are given pause by the claim that all Malian parties have violated the ceasefire. In this regard, I must underscore that the Government of Mali has never violated the ceasefire. I discussed this very point with my friend Hervé Ladsous yesterday, and I think it would be difficult at this point to offer evidence to support that claim. The verification and observation mechanisms set up for this purpose, the Mixed Technical Commission on Security and mobile joint observation and verification teams, led by the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), have never reported any violation of the ceasefire whatsoever by the Malian armed forces or security forces to the Malian authorities.

Council members will recall that, on 25 June 2014 in this very Chamber (see S/PV.7210), the Security Council adopted resolution 2164 (2014), extending the mandate of MINUSMA. In paragraph 4 of that resolution, the Security Council:

> "Reiterates its demand that all armed groups in Mali put aside their arms, cease hostilities immediately, as well as reject the recourse to violence and urges all such groups that have cut off all ties with terrorist organizations and who recognize, without conditions, the unity and territorial integrity of the Malian State, to engage in an inclusive dialogue open to all communities of the North of Mali".

In addition, in paragraph 3 the Council:

> "Urges in particular the Malian authorities to launch without delay an inclusive and credible negotiation process with the signatory and adherent armed groups of the Ouagadougou Preliminary Agreement, and those armed groups in the North of Mali that have cut off all ties with terrorist organizations and committed unconditionally to the Agreement".

Finally, in paragraph 7 the Council:

> "Urges further the parties in this negotiation process to coordinate with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali, with the goal of securing a durable political resolution to the crisis and long-term peace and stability throughout the country, respecting the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Malian State".

Instead of proceeding with a tedious reading of the entire resolution, I would like simply to observe that, by the provisions I have just quoted, the Security Council, in its great wisdom, essentially entrusted to the Malian negotiating parties and the international community the task of playing a three-part symphony on the stage of peace and long-term reconciliation in Mali.

While the Government of Mali has fully and completely played its part by engaging in good faith in the peace process launched on 16 July in Algiers and initialling, at the same time as the Platform of northern movements, the agreement submitted to the parties by the international mediation, the Coordination of northern movements did not do likewise, instead refusing to go in that direction, despite numerous calls from the international community. This attitude betrays a great defiance of the international community, which through the mediation had spent eight long months of intense effort, sacrifice and patience to bring peace and stability to Mali and the region.

I recall to underscore this fact that, in accordance with relevant provisions of resolutions and declarations of the Security Council, the Government of Mali, under the guidance of the Head of State, President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, engaged in inclusive inter-Malian talks under the auspices of the Algerian-led international mediation. After eight long months of intense negotiations, the parties to the inclusive inter-Malian talks concluded and initialed a draft agreement for peace and reconciliation in Mali, with the exception of our brothers from the Coordination of movements, who asked for additional time to consult with their base.

For its part, the Government of Mali has always honoured its commitments. Indeed, in initialing the draft agreement, with full responsibility — and despite the fact that its memorandum, which included 12 pages of amendments and was distributed to members of the international mediation, was not taken into account — the Government of Mali has shown good faith in seeking a dynamic compromise that would make it possible to achieve a just and lasting peace to the crisis affecting our country, in strict compliance with the principles laid down by the President of Mali — namely, respect for Mali's territorial integrity, national sovereignty, and unified, democratic and secular nature.

Let me recall that, at all stages of the inclusive inter-Malian talks, the Malian Government has organized campaigns to raise the awareness of Mali's stakeholders, including political parties, civil society, community leaders, refugees and displaced persons, armed and security forces, with a view to obtaining the massive support of the population for the process. That is why, after initialing the agreement, Malians, in a broad public movement, formed a national alliance for peace and unity in Mali, and organized huge marches in all the major cities of the country to show their commitment to peace, and to demand the signature of the agreement by all parties. The Malian Government initialed the agreement, with the strong support of the vast majority of Malians, who only aspire to peace. We have launched a momentum that we should not squander. Yes, Malians are ready for peace. They are tired of war. They want to turn this dark page in the history of our nation, which is united and indivisible. They want to move forward. They want to be heard. They want, above all, to be understood and respected.

As I speak, exactly 40 days after the initialling of the draft agreement, it is clear that the Coordination still has not initialed the compromise document, in spite of the commitment made on 9 June 2014 in Algiers, to peacefully resolve the conflict in northern Mali through a comprehensive and final peace agreement with the Government of Mali; but also in spite of the numerous appeals by this Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council; and moreover, in spite of the 17 March visit to Kidal by the international mediation to bring the Coordination into the peace process, and ask it to assume its responsibility.

Members will agree when I say that the refusal to initial and sign an agreement reached at the end of an inclusive process carries huge risks for peace in Mali, throughout the region and beyond. It creates an atmosphere that is not conducive to building the confidence so vital to all stakeholders in order to pursue the peace process; it paves the way for unhealthy initiatives that could jeopardize what has been so carefully built over eight long months of negotiations. The Coordination's refusal to initial the draft agreement also promotes the attempts of terrorist groups and drug traffickers to destabilize northern Mali, the

entire Sahel region, and beyond. That can be seen in terrorist attacks, as mentioned earlier by Mr. Ladsous. The terrorist attacks perpetrated for the first time in Bamako on 7 March caused the loss of five lives; there were also attacks and abuses perpetrated in the towns of Gao, Kidal, Nampala, Boni, Diafarabé, M'Boullikessi, Dialloubé, and elsewhere, with numerous casualties that included Malians and non-nationals, civilians and members of the military.

I must say that the negotiation process was also marked by direct and indirect consultations with all Malian stakeholders, sometimes without the mediation. Some direct discussions often took place in our hotel rooms very late at night or early in the morning, as well as in the corridors. I should point out that it was not the Government of Mali that put an end to negotiations. The mediation, after having listened at length to all the Malian stakeholders, including civil society, proposed the initialed draft as a dynamic and balanced compromise to permanently resolve the current crisis in our country. We welcome the courage and spirit of compromise of our brothers and sisters from the Platform of movements and the self-defence groups, which clearly chose unity and peace for our country. We believe that many of our brothers and sisters from the Coordination of movements only want peace. They have told us as much, and we believe in their good faith. However, their voices can barely be heard alongside those few radicals who, for ulterior motives and through stalling tactics and prevarication, want to obstruct peace.

The Security Council and good will should help those who want peace to make their choice with courage and to make it known. We ardently appeal to the Coordination of movements to seize this historic opportunity to make peace. The first step is to initial and sign the draft agreement for peace and reconciliation because there is no alternative to peace. Neither is there an alternative to this agreement, which, after all, is only a framework for the parties' ongoing commitment. It is therefore unacceptable that the peace process in Mali, the hope of 15 million Malians, should be held hostage by a group of radical, extremist individuals. Those who, despite all, choose to obstruct the path to peace leave the international community no choice but to isolate them and to treat them as such by imposing sanctions on them in conformity with the 6 February statement of the Security Council (S/PRST/2015/5). We therefore welcome all initiatives intended to encourage our brothers in the Coordination to become part of the movement and to ensure that in the month of April, the decision is made to initial and sign the agreement.

In that regard, we are encouraged by the announcement made by Algeria of the initialling ceremony by the Coordination of movements, scheduled for 15 April in Algiers. We hope that it will lead quickly and without precondition to the signing by all parties of the agreement for peace and reconciliation in Mali. I wish to stress that such must take place without prior conditions.

The status quo raises the issue of national, subregional, regional and even international security. We ask that the Security Council not be distracted by the radical wing of the Coordination, which manipulates the public to make it seem as if they have rejected the agreement. Today, the international community, similarly to what it has done in other regions, should make every effort to eradicate the terrorists, drug traffickers and forces hostile to the peace agreement in Mali. The work already begun in that vain should be completed.

I have come before the Security Council to make several requests. First, I call on the Council to endorse the agreement initialed on 1 March, as the African Union Peace and Security Council did in its communiqué of 27 March in Addis Ababa, a copy of which has been circulated.

Secondly, I call on the Council to lend its full support to the agreement initialed with France at Algiers on 1 March in the framework of the mediation.

Thirdly, I would like the Council to continue to exert the necessary pressure to bring the Coordination of Movements to sign off on the agreement without delay, prior to its signing at Bamako in April, and, if need be, to consider measures including those set out in the 6 February presidential statement, namely, targeted sanctions against those who impede the Algiers peace process. I emphasize that I am referring to obstacles here, as we are not calling for sanctions for those who have not signed off on the agreement. That is not the goal. Those who have not signed off on the agreement can take their time, and consultations can continue to convince them to do so before the train leaves the station, which must then be able to move at a sustained pace. I am talking about those who have not signed off and who are going to oppose the agreement's implementation — and it is up to Governments, the

international community and the mediation to take the necessary response.

Finally, I came to ask the Council not to condone any resumption of talks in Algiers — under any guise — for the simple reason that such an option is unacceptable to my Government and the international mediation, for it runs the risk of setting a very dangerous precedent for the Security Council. I take this opportunity to reiterate that the Government of Mali has never closed the door to dialogue with our brothers in Coordination, or with any of our other brothers willing to extend a hand in peace. But for us and for the mediation, the negotiations are completed. One must therefore face reality, and all efforts must now aim for the implementation of the agreement. Against that backdrop, the Government of Mali has begun to take various steps towards implementation. Regional development agencies have been set up in the context of the regionalization provided for in the agreement; the date of municipal elections has been postponed to ensure the participation of all communities in the local polls; and awareness-raising campaigns about the agreement have been conducted in all regions of the country, as well as in Bamako and in refugee camps in neighbouring countries.

In conclusion, I would like to recall that we are at a crucial stage of the Algiers process. The Government of Mali has assumed all of its responsibilities by committing itself to the peace process in good faith. The Platform of Movements has done the same. The international mediation, led by Algeria, has unanimously initialed the agreement. France has also initialed, as I just said, and the United States of America has made a statement in support.

We welcome the unity of action of the international mediation, which continues to be essential to the success of the peace process in Mali. In turn, today the Security Council must face up to its responsibilities. The eyes of the Malian people are on the Council. And the countries of the region and those throughout the world that love peace and justice are watching the Council as well.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7426

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7426th meeting
Tuesday, 14 April 2015, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mrs. Kawar	(Jordan)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Lucas
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Lithuania	Ms. Murmokaitė
	Malaysia	Mrs. Adnin
	New Zealand	Mr. McLay
	Nigeria	Mr. Laro
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Spain	Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Ms. Power
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Ramírez Carreño

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Yemen to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2015/245, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Jordan, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by a show of hands.

In favour:

Angola, Chad, Chile, China, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Abstaining:

Russian Federation

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): The draft resolution received 14 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted as resolution 2216 (2015).

I now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements after the vote.

Sir Mark Lyall Grant (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 2216 (2015).

In February, the Security Council made it very clear that further measures would be taken if the Houthis failed to cease their intimidation, aggression and expansion. As their actions have shown, the Houthis ignored this warning. The United Kingdom therefore supports the Saudi-led military intervention in Yemen taking place at the request of President Hadi, but ultimately the solution to this crisis must be a political one, and the United Kingdom stands with the international community in its call in this resolution for an inclusive political process.

We call on all Yemeni parties to engage in the United Nations-led dialogue in good faith. This resolution adopts sanctions against individuals who have chosen not to do so but instead continue to destabilize Yemen. It is right that the international community increase the cost of their unacceptable behaviour.

A political solution in Yemen remains the best way to counter the growing threat from terrorist groups such as Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula. It is imperative that the international community not lose sight of the growing threat that they pose. A political solution is also the best way to arrest the worsening economic and humanitarian situation. Free and unfettered access for humanitarian supplies is critical. The United Kingdom is providing additional humanitarian support to Yemen and we urge the international community to do likewise.

The security and stability of Yemen is in the interest of all Yemenis and all in the international community. It is right that the Security Council has taken this action today and the United Kingdom will continue to use all of the tools at our disposal to support a lasting political solution in Yemen.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian Federation abstained in the voting on resolution 2216 (2015), concerning the conflict in Yemen, as, in our view, it is not fully in line with the requirements that were put forth to the international community or dictated by the current crisis in the country.

During consultations on the resolution, the constructive proposals of the Russian delegation were not given due consideration. The resolution refers to the need to resume negotiations between the parties to the Yemeni conflict, and expresses support to the relevant United Nations efforts. However, the ponsors refused to include the requirements insisted upon by Russia, which were addressed to all parties to the conflict, to swiftly halt fire and begin peace talks.

The resolution contains no due reflection on the difficulties caused by the fighting for Yemeni civilians, nor does it provide a sufficiently clea expression of the instatement of obligations or regular humanitarian pauses.

Given the situation in Yemen, the resolution makes inappropriate reference to the sanctions aspect. We insisted on the necessity of a comprehensive arms embargo. It is well known that Yemen is awash in weapons. In that regard, we think it necessary to stress that the resolution adopted should not be used to further escalate the armed conflict, which could result in serious consequences for Yemen and the entire region.

Without a doubt, the current chaos in Yemen is playing environment xclusively into the hands of terrorist organizations. There is no alternative to a political solution to the conflict in Yemen. We expect dynamic activities from the United Nations with a view to the resumption of peace talks between all parties to the Yemeni conflict. That work, based on already existing documents, should begin swiftly.

Ms. Power (United States of America): For months the Security Council has clearly and unequivocally demanded that the Houthi withdraw from Government institutions, cease hostilities and return to Yemen's agreed-upon political transition. As recently as our 22 March presidential statement (S/PRST/2015/8), we condemned unilateral actions taken by the Houthi to undermine Yemen's security, stability and unity. In response, the Houthis, working in close coordination with former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, have intensified their military campaign, bombed Aden and extended their offensive to Yemen's south. Those actions have caused widespread violence and instability that threaten the security and welfare of the Yemeni people, as well as the region's security.

As a result, the United States strongly supports the adoption of today's resolution 2216 (2015), which imposes consequences on the Houthi and former President Saleh, demands that the Houthi cease military operations and calls on all sides to once again return to the negotiating table. The imposition of a global assets freeze and travel ban on Ahmed Ali Saleh and Abdulmalik al-Houthi, as well as a targeted arms embargo, show that the Security Council will take action against those who continue to undermine efforts towards reconciliation.

The resolution further recognizes the costs of Yemen's rapidly deteriorating humanitarian conditions. In response, the resolution affirms that all parties must comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, and it urges all parties to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to civilians in need, including by working with the Secretary-General to establish humanitarian pauses. The Council cannot lose sight of the human consequences of this conflict.

A legitimate transition in Yemen can be achieved only through political negotiations and a consensus agreement among all political parties based on the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative and the outcomes of Yemen's National Dialogue Conference. The United Nations must continue its efforts to hold talks to find a consensus solution to this crisis, and all parties must commit to taking part in the talks. There is no alternative.

Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): Spain would like to express its full support for resolution 2216 (2015), on the situation in Yemen, submitted by the delegation of Jordan. We trust that the message of the Security Council will be clear to all the parties to the conflict and help to halt the escalation of violence. In particular, I would like to underscore the call to dialogue and the appeal for a political solution based on consensus. Inclusive dialogue is the only way to achieve the goals of unity and prosperity for Yemen that we all desire.

We also have faith in the full involvement of the Secretary-General and his team, with a view to helping to resolve this crisis as early as possible and facilitating the path to a return to a democratic transition led by the Yemenis themselves.

We share the concern of the other members of the Council over the longstanding humanitarian crisis that has affected the Yemeni population, which can only worsen with further the armed clashes. We therefore emphasize the importance of complying with the requirements set out in this and other resolutions on Yemen.

Lastly, I would like to point out the importance of transparency in negotiations in order to ensure the constructive contribution of the 15 members of the Security Council. Such will allow us to achieve the highest level of consensus possible in this as well as in other matters.

Mr. Liu Jieyi (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The Security Council just adopted resolution 2216 (2015), which reiterates the Council's support for the sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity of Yemen. The resolution also calls upon the parties concerned to reach agreement on a ceasefire as soon as possible. And it clearly requires the parties concerned in Yemen to solve their differences in a

peaceful manner through dialogue and consultation. The resolution is extremely important for restoring stability in Yemen and promoting a political settlement of the issue. China is profoundly concerned by recent developments in Yemen. If allowed to continue, the fighting and chaos in Yemen will not only plunge the people of Yemen into profound calamity, but will also spill over, affecting the entire region. There is no military solution; political negotiation is the only way out.

China calls upon the parties concerned to work in the interests of the nation and the people of Yemen, to take to heart the overall interests of regional peace and stability and to truly comply with and implement the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, in particular resolution 2216 (2015), in order to achieve a prompt ceasefire. Furthermore, we urge the parties to resolve the crisis through political dialogue on the basis of Security Council resolutions and the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative, to restore stability and order, as soon as possible, and to to promote an inclusive political transition led by the Yemeni people.

China hopes that all parties will, on the basis of satisfy the requirements of the resolution, focus on the humanitarian issues on the ground in order to provide security and facilitate humanitarian assistance and the evacuation of expatriates in Yemen. The parties should also commit to protect the safety and security of diplomatic establishments and personnel in accordance with relevant international law. China supports the ongoing role of the United Nations in mediating a political solution and calls upon the parties to ease the tension, facilitate the humanitarian situation and play a constructive role in the political solution. China is ready to join the rest of the international community in unremitting efforts for a political settlement.

Mrs. Adnin (Malaysia): I take the floor to explain my delegation's vote today on resolution 2216 (2015), on the situation in Yemen. I would also like to take this opportunity to commend you, Madam President, for the way in which you have guided the Council towards the resolution's successful adoption today. In that regard, Malaysia thanks the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) for its engagement with the Security Council.

We consider it most unfortunate that the deteriorating situation in Yemen has compelled us to adopt this resolution. Today the parties in Yemen seem ever further from the promising steps they had taken towards a peaceful transition. Today the conflicting parties are no longer engaging in dialogue, and the situation has degenerated into an all-out war.

Malaysia wishes to emphasize that the success of a Yemeni political transition hinges on the political will to negotiate of the parties in Yemen themselves. However, without good faith, sincere commitment and political will on all sides, any such negotiations are doomed to failure. Nevertheless, in his role in leading the negotiation process on behalf of the international community and the United Nations, Malaysia would like to pay tribute to Mr. Jamal Benomar, Special Adviser of the Secretary-General, for his tireless efforts to salvage the dialogue between all the parties. We strongly condemn the spoilers of Yemen's democratic transition for their disregard for previous commitments and their pursuit of a power struggle at the expense of the country's unity and stability. In our view, their pursuit of narrow self-interest has betrayed the hopes and aspirations of the Yemeni people for a brighter future.

The brazen attack last month by the Houthi militias, in collaboration with forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, on the presidential palace of President Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi Mansour in Aden was simply unacceptable. In the face of such blatant disregard for various Security Council resolutions, the Council must discharge its duty and responsibility by calling on the parties to exercise restraint and return to the country's road map for an inclusive, democratic transition. For that and other reasons, Malaysia supports resolution 2216 (2015), including its provision for expanding targeted sanctions against Yemen's peace spoilers.

At the same time, we are deeply concerned about the worsening humanitarian situation in Yemen owing to the escalation of the conflict. Even prior to the latest escalation, 16 million of Yemen's 25 million citizens required humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs. The already dire humanitarian situation has now worsened as the population faces severe food insecurity and a lack of basic needs, such as drinking water and health services.

Malaysia is deeply concerned about reports from humanitarian agencies such as UNICEF, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on the difficulties they are encountering in their efforts to provide emergency assistance and deliver humanitarian aid, including medical supplies, to those in need. We

have seen reports of ICRC workers being shot and killed while trying to retrieve the bodies of victims left lying in the streets after military clashes. UNICEF has also highlighted that children continue to be killed, injured, displaced and put at increasing risk of disease as the conflict continues in Yemen. Almost a quarter of those killed in the recent conflict have been children. Schools and hospitals have also been attacked. In view of the deteriorating situation on the ground, we urge all parties to the conflict to make every effort to protect civilians from violence, especially women and children, who are the most vulnerable in any armed conflict. We call on all the parties to adhere to international law, including international humanitarian and human-rights law.

Malaysia welcomes the ongoing mediation efforts of some countries aimed at arriving at a peaceful solution to the conflict. We reiterate the call in resolution 2216 (2015) to all Yemeni parties to resume United Nations-brokered negotiations for completing the final phases of the road map for Yemen's democratic transition, based on the GCC Initiative and its Implementation Mechanism, the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference and the Peace and National Partnership Agreement. We believe that this remains the only legitimate path towards a democratic, stable and inclusive Yemen, and we will continue to support Yemen in that endeavour.

Mr. Barros Melet (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): It is clear that different interpretations exist of the situation affecting Yemen, but we all agree that the violence is having a serious effect on the civilian population. For that reason, we appreciate the fact that the final version of the resolution we have adopted today (resolution 2216 (2015)) includes stronger language on the humanitarian situation than was originally proposed, as well as incorporating the concept of humanitarian pauses, which has been requested by various humanitarian agencies and organizations. However, the humanitarian situation will not improve if the violence does not stop and if no progress is made with the political dialogue, which is why we call for speedy implementation of the ceasefire envisaged in today's resolution. The continued use of force will eliminate any possibility of an inclusive and sustainable political dialogue.

We regret the fact that the resolution's text does not include references to the impact of the growing violence on young people, including the killing and maiming of children and their ongoing recruitment and use in the fighting, as well the obstacles posed to access to schooling and hospitals, in contravention of the principles laid out in resolution 2143 (2014). That is an aspect of the crisis that we cannot overlook.

Lastly, my country feels that it is important, as has been mentioned, that the negotiation process be transparent from the very beginning, and that applies to all members of the Council.

Mr. Ramírez Carreño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela voted in favour of today's resolution 2216 (2015), in the firm conviction that it is the responsibility of the Security Council to encourage a peaceful, negotiated settlement of the conflict in Yemen. We emphasize that there can be no military solution to the conflict affecting the country. The only solution is a political, negotiated and peaceful one. In that regard, we reaffirm our support for the mediation efforts of Mr. Jamal Benomar, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen, aimed at helping the parties to arrive at a peace agreement within the framework of a political transition.

We hoped that today's resolution would include stronger language on a cessation of hostilities — and indeed of every kind of military action — in Yemen. The escalating violence has resulted in the death of civilians, including women and children, and the growing number of clashes has exacerbated the already complex humanitarian situation that our Arab brother country has been dealing with for many years, which has left more than 60 per cent of the population in need of aid. The current situation is only worsening the already delicate and critical situation on the ground. We condemn the attacks on hospitals and schools, in violation of international humanitarian law, and in that regard we call on the parties to fully comply with the standards set by international humanitarian and human-rights law so as to ensure the protection of civilians. We also appeal to them to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Yemenis in urgent need of food, medicine and basic services.

We reaffirm our condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The only people who benefit from the current conflict are the terrorist groups of Al-Qaida and the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, since institutional collapse and sectarian tensions help them to realize their aims. It is therefore essential that there be a return to dialogue and negotiation with a view to achieving peace and stability in Yemen. Likewise, we urge Member States to refrain from taking any

measures that would prevent the achievement of those objectives.

Lastly, we agree with what was said by other delegations. Our country will always work constructively within the Security Council in order to achieve the proposed objectives. However, we would like to express our concern at the fact that the negotiating process lacked the required inclusiveness, limiting the discussions on the items in the resolution to a group of actors and excluding the other non-permanent members of the Council, whose proposals were not discussed properly. We hope that this type of situation will not happen again, because it affects the Council's working methods and in particular undermines its transparency and credibility.

Ms. Murmokaitė (Lithuania): Lithuania voted in favour of resolution 2216 (2015), which was just adopted and sends a strong and much-needed signal from the international community that all parties in Yemen should quickly come back to the negotiating table, relaunch the transition process as per the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative and the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference, and thus spare the lives and livelihoods of the hundreds of thousands of Yemenis affected by the fighting.

As we all know, the humanitarian situation in Yemen is dire: 16 million people, almost a third of the population, are in need of humanitarian assistance. Due to the conflict, hundreds of civilians have been killed or wounded, and 100,000 civilians have fled their homes.

Lithuania underscores the call of the resolution on all sides to strictly observe international humanitarian and human rights law. Humanitarian aid must be allowed to reach those in need without delay. The Council has a responsibility to do everything in its power to prevent Yemen from falling into a disastrous spiral of civil war, sectarian division and disintegration. The Council's message should be united and clear: a political solution can be found, violence is not the answer, and those who continue their spoiling acts will face serious consequences. We believe that an arms embargo against the spoilers and their associates, as well as the designation of the Houthi leader, Abdulmalik al-Houthi, and the former head of the Republican Guard, Ahmed Saleh, will send a strong signal that the use of violence against peaceful transition, in defiance of Security Council resolutions, will not be tolerated.

At the same time, the Council must now make sure that both existing and new sanctions are vigorously and fully implemented by all. The United Nations has been able to pull Yemen away from the brink before through its good offices and mediation. We must not forget that the role of the United Nations remains vital if a return to sustainable peace in Yemen is to stand a chance.

Mr. Delattre (France) (*spoke in French*): We would like to thank Jordan for having taken the initiative to prepare and coordinate negotiations on the draft resolution on the situation in Yemen. France voted in favour of resolution 2216 (2015), of which it was a sponsor, as it deals with the root cause of the current situation, which is a political one: the ongoing destabilization of the country by the Houthi rebels.

At issue is the militia's refusal to abide by the Security Council's requests, in particular those contained in resolution 2201 (2015), adopted on 15 February, and presidential statement S/PRST/2015/8, adopted on 22 March, as well as by the various agreements negotiated in recent months under the auspices of the United Nations, which have not been upheld. The threat posed by the Houthis to the unity, integrity, stability and sovereignty of Yemen can benefit only the terrorists, beginning with Al-Qaida but also, more recently, Daesh.

We have tirelessly for many months now indicated to spoilers of the political transition that we were determined to bring growing pressure to bear upon them in order that they cease their unilateral actions and return to the negotiating table. It was important for us to confirm our determination to translate that message into action, and this is what we have just done by imposing sanctions on Mr. Abdulmalik al-Houthi and Mr. Ahmed Ali Abdullah Saleh as well as a targeted arms embargo. Our collective credibility was at stake.

However, these necessary sanctions are not a means in and of themselves, but, rather, an instrument aimed at promoting the achievement of a political goal: an end to the crisis, the resumption of an inclusive political dialogue, agreement on the formation of a national unity Government and a phased relaunching of the Yemeni transition. That is the political goal that we are seeking. Here the United Nations has a key role to play, as its expertise and its neutrality makes it irreplaceable. That is why we support the role of the Organization in Yemen and call for the relaunching of the inter-Yemeni dialogue under its auspices as soon as possible.

Given the worsening humanitarian situation on the ground, France also calls for compliance with international humanitarian law and the protection of civilians. Free and unimpeded access to those in need of assistance must be guaranteed, as set out in the resolution.

France supports the Council's steadfast approach to Yemen: the backing of Yemen's legitimate President, Mr. Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi Mansour; its firm stance on spoilers; its support for the achievements of the transition and the country's institutions; its call for a politically inclusive settlement that alone will allow the challenges in the country to be met; and the combat against terrorist groups. We express the hope that this approach will produce speedy results and are certain that we can count on the determination of the United Nations in that respect. We call upon all actors concerned — Yemeni parties, regional actors and influential countries — to work along those lines.

Mr. McLay (New Zealand): New Zealand is pleased that the Council has now been able to agree a response to the conflict in Yemen. It has been a challenging and difficult process to get us to this point, in which you, Madam President, have led us with great patience — infinite patience, I might say.

It is important that the Council be seen to be united in this crisis and equally important that we send a clear signal about the urgent need for an end to hostilities and for a return to dialogue and to an inclusive political process, as agreed previously by the Council.

Resolution 2216 (2015), which the Council just adopted, imposes consequences for non-compliance. We hope that that will create further incentives for the parties to return to the negotiating table, so we reiterate and support the resolution's call for a resumption of the United Nations-led political dialogue. That would be in the best interests of all parties and of the long-suffering people of Yemen. This time the parties must listen.

We are also very deeply concerned at the humanitarian situation in Yemen and the impact of the conflict on civilians, and we re-echo the resolution's call for all parties involved in military operations to comply with international humanitarian and human rights law. That is not an option; it is an obligation.

Absent a political solution to this crisis, that humanitarian situation will only continue to deteriorate. So we reiterate the call for all parties to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and we support the request that the Secretary-General should intensify his efforts to facilitate a humanitarian pause.

New Zealand will be actively engaged in following up on progress towards those humanitarian outcomes that we should all be seeking.

Mr. Cherif (Chad) (*spoke in French*): As this is the first time that I am taking the floor in an open meeting under your presidency, Madam, allow me to congratulate your country, Jordan, on its assumption of the presidency of the Security Council and to wish every success to you and to your whole Mission team. Chad wishes to assure you of our constructive cooperation and support.

My country welcomes the adoption just now of resolution 2216 (2015), on Yemen, where the situation is deeply worrisome on the security and humanitarian fronts. The resolution addresses the root causes of the conflict. Chad voted in favour of the resolution, hoping to see the international community its join efforts with those of the countries members of the Gulf Cooperation Council so as to prevent the total collapse of Yemen, which could pose a real threat to international peace and security. In that regard, Chad supports the efforts of the member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council to restore peace in Yemen. Accordingly, we emphasize the need for strong mobilization by the entire international community to put an end to the dangerous escalation of the conflict and to promote the ongoing negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations in respect of the legitimacy represented by President Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi Mansour and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including resolution 2201 (2015).

The Security Council must send a clear and strong message to all Yemeni parties, especially the Houthis, to call them to immediately stop the violence and respect the democratic transition under the Peace and National Partnership Agreement, as well as decisions of the National Dialogue Conference and the agreement on the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and its Implementation Mechanism. It is not acceptable that an armed militia could use violence to undermine the achievements of the National Dialogue or subvert constitutional legitimacy.

In conclusion, Chad reminds all parties to the conflict of their obligations to respect international humanitarian law and to avoid targeting hospitals,

schools, civilian infrastructure and camps for refugees and displaced persons.

Mr. Laro (Nigeria): Nigeria is deeply concerned by the deteriorating political, security and humanitarian situation in Yemen. We have repeatedly stated that the crisis in Yemen cannot be resolved militarily. The only path to sustainable peace and stability in Yemen is through negotiation and dialogue. We call on all parties in Yemen to return to the political process in line with the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and Implementation Mechanism, as well as the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference, in which all parties participated. Our wish is to see in the very near future a peaceful, prosperous, united and stable Yemen in which all communities live together in harmony. It is our hope that resolution 2216 (2015), which the Security Council has just adopted, will lead to an early and permanent resolution of the crisis in Yemen.

Mr. Lucas (Angola): My delegation voted in favour and fully supports resolution 2216 (2015), whose necessity was dictated by the Houthis' unilateral actions that jeopardized what seemed to be a promising transitional political process in Yemen. It is our hope that the resolution contributes to a meaningful peace process in the country and to solving the major humanitarian crisis there.

We praise Jordan and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) for their efforts in bringing about the Security Council's adoption of this resolution for a political solution based on the GCC's Initiative, which remains the only framework for the re-engagement of the political process. We expect that the spoilers are treated as the resolution disposes.

We are greatly concerned about the growing number and scale of attacks by Al-Qaida terrorists, a deadly danger for the future of peace and stability in the country. We now appeal to all parties to the conflict to resume negotiations and support United Nations mediation efforts conducive to reinstating the transitional political process for a future of stability and peace in Yemen.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Jordan.

Jordan welcomes the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2216 (2015), which we put forward today. It reflects Jordan's ongoing desire for the return of stability and security to the sisterly country of Yemen as soon as possible. The irresponsible practices of the Houthis and their supporters, and the continuation of their unilateral actions, along with their non-compliance with Security Council resolutions, have led the Council to adopt a resolution under Chapter VII, whereby States are prohibited from arming a group of individuals involved in acts that pose threats to peace, security or stability in Yemen.

In a move that reflects the Council's determination to use the sanctions regime to deter anyone found involved in acts that threaten peace, security or stability in Yemen, the Council has imposed today a travel ban and an assets freeze on Abdulmalik al-Houthi , the leader of the Houthis, and Ahmed Ali Abdullah Saleh, In addition to an arms supply embargo against them or whoever acts on their behalf or at their direction.

Given that the Council stresses the importance of dialogue and political solution to the Yemeni crisis, the resolution requests the Secretary-General to intensify his good offices role in order to enable a resumption of the political transition process, as set out in the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and Implementation Mechanism, and the outcomes of the comprehensive National Dialogue Conference. It urges all Yemeni parties to attend a conference to be held in Riyadh to further support the political transition in Yemen, as called for by the Yemeni President, whose legitimacy is reiterated today by the Council, which has also expressed its support for him.

In accordance with resolution 2216 (2015), the Council is seeking to put an end to violence in Yemen by creating the conditions to bring about such result, the most important of which is the Houthis' commitment to implementing the relevant Security Council resolutions, including today's resolution, which demands, inter alia, that they immediately and unconditionally end the use of violence, withdraw their forces from all areas they have seized, relinquish all additional weapons seized from the military and security institutions, and refrain from any provocations or threats to neighbouring states of Yemen.

With respect to the humanitarian situation, the resolution takes into account the guarantee to facilitate the evacuation by concerned States and international organizations of their citizens and personnel from Yemen, ensures the smooth flow of humanitarian aid, and facilitates evacuation procedures. It notes the establishment of humanitarian pauses, as appropriate, and in coordination with the Yemeni Government.

We emphasize that the humanitarian suffering in Yemen began and reached record levels when the Houthis failed to comply with Security Council resolutions and rejected the appeals of the international community and the League of Arab States. That derailed the political transition process and exacerbated the humanitarian and security situation in Yemen.

The adoption by the Council of this resolution under Chapter VII sends a strong and firm message to the Houthis, their supporters and any party that tries to threaten the security and stability of Yemen. It is a message that all parties should heed carefully and seriously. The Council affirms its readiness to take further measures in the event that any Yemeni party fails to implement this resolution and resolution 2201 (2015).

Finally, the deteriorating political and security situation in Yemen poses a serious and growing threat to neighbouring States. The international community and the Security Council should bear in mind the potential security and political repercussions on the region as a whole, and should continue to listen to the concerns of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I now give the floor to the representative of Yemen.

Mr. Alyemany (Yemen) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to thank you, Madam, for the efforts made by the sisterly Mission of Jordan in this international forum to address issues affecting Arab countries and, in particular, my country Yemen. Resolution 2216 (2015), adopted today, is a tangible demonstration of the serious approach being taken by the international community and the Security Council to provide unified support to our people in pursuit of their legitimate aspirations to instate the rule of law in a dignified State where all citizens are all equal and peaceful federal democracy reigns.

As the Council has today adopted a comprehensive resolution to deal with all aspects of the Yemeni crisis, may I recall the Security Council's visit at the end of January 2013 when it met with President Mansour Hadi and other members of the Government. That historic visit to my country by the Security Council, which followed that of the Secretary-General, affirmed the Council's commitment to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Initiative and its Implementation Mechanism, as well as to the outcomes of the National Dialogue and relevant Security Council resolutions. It was an appeal to all Yemeni parties to make headway in the political transition.

The Yemeni people, with the support of international community and of the countries of the region, stepped up the pace to bring the transition to a close. Just as we approached the historic steps of adopting the federal Constitution of the State and holding legislative elections, destabilizing militia forces stepped up efforts to their own ends — a coup d'état.

The State under the constitutional legitimacy of the Yemeni President was the aspiration of all Yemenis. To the detractors, it was an obstacle to their designs. On the one hand, there was a spirit of brotherliness and dialogue in Yemen, in keeping with the hopes of the Yemeni people, through national dialogue, to create a unified State neither by coercion nor by hegemony; on the other hand, the putsch sought, through a vision manipulated by Iran — where Houthi militias and forces loyal to the former president were trained — to threaten the social fabric of Yemen and the cohesion of its people. The coup d'état was sped up against the legitimately elected President, whom these forces sought to replace, just as they sought to topple the Government in all areas, with militias from Sana'a and Taiz to Aden.

The Yemeni people rose up against them. The militias tried to attack the President in Aden so as to topple his legitimate regime and perpetrate a coup d'état. The President was forced, in the context of his constitutional prerogative, to ask his brothers and friends to protext the Yemeni people and the territorial integrity of Yemen, in keeping with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. The response from the brotherly countries of the GCC, led by Saudi Arabia, was commensurate with the political responsibility and reflects our intertwined destinies. It was a very firm response aiming to defend the legitimacy of the Constitution and to rebuff Iran's efforts with regard to my country.

The militias refuse to recognize the geopolitical or historical realities of the country or the blood ties between Yemen and the countries of the region. Let me therefore reiterate that my country will never forget and will remain forever grateful to our brothers in Saudi Arabia and other GCC countries. We must also pay heartfelt tribute to the heroic fighting of our

brothers in Aden, Taiz, Shabwah, Al-Ghayda, Ibb and elsewhere — every inch of Yemen has presented a unified resistance against the army of death, revenge and destruction.

From the very first hours of the Operation Decisive Storm, we have taken humanitarian concerns into account. Under the guidance of the President, we have worked in cooperation with coalition forces and humanitarian organizations to mobilize considerable resources provided by the GCC for emergency measures to mitigate the humanitarian suffering of the Yemeni people in various regions of the country; to provide humanitarian emergency assistance, medical supplies and medicines; to transport the wounded to Gulf States; and to help repatriate those stuck in airports in neighbouring States. Humanitarian operations continue under the auspices of the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross. The Minister for Foreign Affairs is currently in Djibouti, which has become a humanitarian support centre, to organize emergency medical assistance.

At the same time, Government efforts continue to seek an exit strategy from the crisis that has raged since the coup d'état of 21 September. Consultations and dialogue continue among the various Yemeni forces in various Gulf capitals, including Riyadh. The presidential decree of yesterday designating Khaled Mahafoudh Bahah as Vice-President is of particular importance. It was a necessary measure to restore peace and stability in Yemen and to urge parties to the conflict to return to dialogue so as to implement the outcomes of the national dialogue.

The only way out of the crisis in Yemen is through dialogue. There can be no forceful solution or coup d'état. The militias must implement the resolution just adopted by the Security Council so as to allow for the drafting of a reconstruction plan, build capacities in cooperation with our GCC partners, and establish a regional security system whereby Yemen will be a source of stability, development and support to the brotherly countries of the region.

In conclusion, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Security Council members who have always supported the Yemeni people and our constitutionally legitimate President, Mansour Hadi. I would like to thank in particular our brothers of shared destiny in the framework of ongoing corporation under the GCC, led by Saudi Arabia, and, in particular, the King of Saudi Arabia. We would like to thank them for their genuine support to our country.

I would also like to thank the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his efforts as well as the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan through you, Ambassador Kawar, President of the Security Council and representative of all Arabs in these dark times.

The meeting rose at 11 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7427

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7427th meeting

Tuesday, 14 April 2015, 11.10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mrs. Kawar	(Jordan)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Lucas
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Mr. Zhao Yong
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Lithuania	Ms. Murmokaitė
	Malaysia	Mrs. Adnin
	New Zealand	Mr. McLay
	Nigeria	Mr. Laro
	Russian Federation	Mr. Agasandyan
	Spain	Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Ms. Power
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Ramírez Carreño

Agenda

The situation in the Central African Republic

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic (S/2015/227)

Letter dated 10 April 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2015/248)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

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The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Central African Republic

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic (S/2015/227)

Letter dated 10 April 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2015/248)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Lieutenant General Babacar Gaye, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2015/227, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic, as well as to document S/2015/248, containing a letter dated 10 April 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council.

I now give the floor to Lieutenant General Gaye.

Mr. Gaye (*spoke in French*): I express my deep respect and thanks to the Council for this opportunity to take stock of the situation in the Central African Republic.

Significant progress has been made in the protection of populations that continue to suffer violence. The violence is the result, particularly in recent weeks, of intercommunal tensions related to the seasonal migration of Fulani herders and their livestock. The violence also continues to prevail in Bangui and in the west of the country due to the anti-balakas, which, like the ex-Sélékas in the central and eastern parts of the country, are seeking to overthrow the State. The still fragile return of State authority has failed to prevent or ease community tensions.

The enclaves of at-risk populations, especially Muslim communities, therefore remain threatened despite the efforts of humanitarian actors and the international forces. The humanitarian situation remains grave throughout the country. The numbers of the displaced have continued to rise; some 50,000 have been displaced since January. At the same time, humanitarian access has suffered from the fragmentation of armed groups.

(*spoke in English*)

Turning to the political situation, the historic local consultations were completed in March and covered all 16 prefectures. These local consultations offered the citizens of the Central African Republic an opportunity to express their views on issues at the heart of the crisis, including justice and reconciliation, peace and security, governance and socioeconomic development priorities. The Government's report on the local consultations will serve as a basis for discussion and debate at the Bangui Forum.

On 7 April, the Bangui Forum Preparatory Commission presented its final report to the Head of the State of the Transition, Ms. Catherine Samba-Panza, the international community and the public. The document includes reports from the Commission's four thematic working groups on peace and security, justice and reconciliation, governance, and social and economic development.

Between 1 and 7 April, the Government issued four decrees relating to the dates of the Forum, the establishment of the presidency, and its organization and technical committees. On the same day, the President of the National Transitional Council issued a declaration demanding the elimination of the decree, notably due to the lack of consultation with the National Transitional Council. The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) immediately provided good offices, through consultations with national stakeholders and international partners, with a view to diffusing the tension among the transitional authorities and promoting an approach based on consensus. This effort resulted in the issuance yesterday of a new decree on the composition of the Forum's presidency, which I believe provides for a more inclusive approach. In the same vein, during his long interaction with the Transitional Council yesterday, the Prime Minister also contributed to the overall reduction in tensions.

MINUSCA is also prepared to facilitate discussions between the Transitional Authority and armed groups prior to the Forum. These talks are intended to foster a

broad agreement on principles for security sector reform and a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) strategy that will be further refined during the Forum, and will serve as an opportunity for armed groups to recommit to the provisions of the 23 July 2014 Cessation of Hostilities Agreement signed in Brazzaville.

The completion of the inclusive Bangui Forum national dialogue will be another milestone in the transition. Commitment on the part of all national stakeholders, including political and military leaders of armed groups, will be critical to keeping the transition on track and opening the way toward next steps in the transition process, including the organization of elections and the launch of longer-term national reconciliation efforts. Pending agreement on a national and inclusive DDR strategy, MINUSCA has begun activities to support the regroupment process through labour-intensive public works projects that have been launched in high-risk areas and target young people at risk, including ex-combatants.

The transition has reached a critical stage. The organization of credible elections will mark the end of the transition. In that regard, the electoral process is facing challenges, including, notably, the registration of internally displaced persons and refugees outside the country. Security and financial challenges continue to impede the work of the National Electoral Authority. As of 2 April, the Authority had established 97 of its 142 field offices.

While MINUSCA has provided advice on operational plans for security and electoral operations, it is of serious concern that the basket fund of $44 million managed by the United Nations Development Programme still has a 49-per cent funding gap. Indeed, the timely completion of the electoral process is linked to the timely receipt of funds for the electoral process, and we call on Member States' prompt response to this appeal.

During the most recent meeting in Brazzaville of the International Contact Group on the Central African Republic on 16 March, participants urged the Transitional Authorities to accelerate electoral preparations and to review the legal framework in order to identify options to simplify the process. The International Contact Group also urged the Transitional Authorities to respect the ineligibility clause in the Constitutional Charter that prohibits high-level transitional Government officials from standing for office. The final communiqué reiterated the timeline for the transition, with an end date of 15 August.

(*spoke in French*)

The Central African Republic is entering a crucial phase of its return to security and stability. The recent visit of the Security Council to the country, along with its decision to grant MINUSCA a reinforcement of 750 soldiers, 288 police officers and 20 officers of the prison administration, reflect its attentive support for the Mission.

The interest and continued support of international and regional partners remain more essential than ever. This interest and support help to ensure not only the normal course of the transition, but also the continuation of humanitarian operations in the country with adequate resources. I take this opportunity to call on all international partners to maintain their commitment to supporting the humanitarian operations that the country so badly needs. To date, consolidated United Nations support for humanitarian assistance for the Central African Republic covers only 13 per cent of the necessary funds.

Restoring security, promoting inclusive political dialogue and completing the transition is only the beginning of the long journey of the Central African Republic to stability and sustainable development. Central Africans continue to rely on MINUSCA for the effective implementation of the mandate, with the commitment and ongoing support of the Council. The international community has a moral obligation to help the Central African Republic and its people to remain on the path of peace and reconciliation. That is our collective responsibility.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank Lieutenant General Gaye for his briefing.

I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.